

REMARKS

Claims 9-15 are pending in the present application. Previous claims 13-16 have been amended to properly renumber the claims. Claim 16 was canceled and rewritten as claim 15. No new matter was introduced as a result of the amendments. Entry of the amendments and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Previous claims 13-16 were objected to for having improper numerical designations. In light of the present amendments, Applicant submits the objectionable matter has been addressed. Withdrawal of the objection is earnestly requested.

Claim 15 (now claim 14) was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 9-11, 13-14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Frederiksen et al. (US Pub. 2004/0028020) in view of Das et al. (US Patent 7,162,675). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

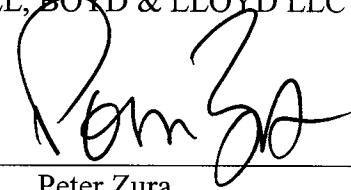
Applicant submits that Frederiksen is not prior art to the present application. The present application claims priority to German patent application DE 10226394.9, which has a filing date of June 13, 2002 (see papers filed with preliminary amendment dated December 13, 2004). Frederiksen's filing date is August 9, 2002, which is subsequent to the filing date of the present application. For at least these reasons, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 is improper and should be withdrawn.

In light of the present amendments and arguments, Applicant respectfully submit that claims 7-13 are allowable. Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance and request a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Commissioner is authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any additional fees associated with the submission of this Response. Please reference docket number 112740-1026.

Respectfully submitted,

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